

Statement by Senator Strom Thurmond at Aiken, S.C.,
dinner honoring Governor James F. Byrnes, April 16, 1955
at conclusion of speech by Governor Byrnes.

The man who has just spoken to us/was more responsible for one of
today's top headlines/than any of the persons mentioned in the story/which you read on
the front-page of your newspaper. I cite this as further proof of the great influence he
~~exerts~~ ^{there} holds/and because ~~they~~ may be some who will forget past events.

I refer to the successful battle waged at the 1952 Democratic Convention
in Chicago/when Governor Byrnes spoke for the Southern states/against the ~~infamous and~~
~~so-called loyalty oath~~
so-called loyalty oath. Today's headlines and story/might lead some to believe /that certain
National Democratic Party leaders/have given a present to the Southern States/in agreeing
to "require no commitments" of delegates/to the National Democratic Convention.

But this was no gift. Don't forget that the firm stand taken by Governor
Byrnes/against the oath in 1952 at Chicago/is the real reason for our political freedom today.

The voice of the South has been heard/^{is}and/respected by the national
Democratic leaders. But they can not deceive us by offering a "gift" which already belonged to
us/and which was firmly secured/by the courageous stand of Governor Byrnes and his associates
in Chicago/and the resulting freedom of political action/exercised by millions in 1952.